Vol. VIII. Numb. 36

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the French *King's refusing to sign the Preliminaries of Peace. The Resemblance of his Case to that of harden'd* Pharaoh. *Some Cautions to the Confederates, that there be nothing among them, which may provoke Heaven to delay Peace. Reasons, if the Treaty be renew'd, for insisting, that the Edict of* Nantz, *and the Power of his States, be restor'd. On a malicious Paragraph in* Dyer's News-Letter, *about the Sacramental Test in* Ireland.

From **Wednesday**, June 1. to **Saturday**, June 4. 1709.

Country-m. THE Face of Affairs is much alter'd since you and I discours'd last, Master. The old *French* Cock has acted a cunning Part. He only put his Head a little under the Wings of the Eagle, *&c.* to get a breathing Time; and now he is for renewing the Battel; so that we are like to have some more of the Royal Sport of Cock-fighting.

Obs. With all my Heart, *Roger.* 'Tis Pity but they who love War, should have their Fill on't. We are told by *Xenophon*, and others, That *Cyrus*, King of *Persia*, after he had forc'd the greatest Part of *Asia* to truckle under him, made War against the *Massagetes*, and defeated their Army by a Correspondence with their General *Spargapisus*; but their Queen *Tomyris*, having levy'd another Army, she routed *Cyrus*, cut off his Head, and throwing it into a Vessel fill'd of Blood, bid him take a full Draught of what he had so much thirsted for. We don't know, *Roger*, but her Majesty's Arms may be bless'd with so much Success, as to bring *Lewis* the XIVth to some such Fate. His Conduct has all along been so much like that of *Pharaoh*, as gives us Ground to think, that God has harden'd his Heart, in order to bring Destruction upon himself, and his slavish People who support him.

Country-m. Why truly, Master, when I consider'd what a Man of Blood he has been, how barbarously he has persecuted primitive Christianity, how zealously he has supported spiritual Whoredom and Idolatry, and that now, when reduc'd to Extremity, he had his principal Recourse to the Shrine of St. *Genevieve*, who, I suppose was one of Madam *Maintenon*'s Stamp, I could not but think, when the *French* seem'd to sue so hard for Peace, that the Answer which *Jehu* gave to *Joram*, King of *Israel*, was very proper for him, *viz. What Peace, so long as the Whoredoms of thy Mother* Jezabel, *and her Witchcrafts, are so many.* Now, Master, since the *French* King's Mother, the Church of *Rome*, has intoxicated him so much with the Cup of her Fornication and Witchcrafts, as to make him her principal Champion, and a more barbarous Persecutor, all Things consider'd, than any that have been in the World since the Days of the ten persecuting Emperors, and that he is as obstinate in refusing to do Justice to his Protestant Subjects, as others are cold in pressing it, I don't know but the Issue of this War, if renew'd, may be such as will procure Justice to them in another Way, and bring his Mother *Jezabel* likewise to Repentance.

Obs. All those Things are in the Hand of God, *Roger.* But be that how it will, you and I have endeavour'd to refresh the Memory of those who seem'd to have forgot his Treachery. He never yet kept Oaths or Treaties; therefore we are not to wonder at his breaking Preliminaries. He imbib'd those threacherous Principles from Cardinal *Mazarine*, and others, that were about him in his Youth, and has constantly practis'd them now to his old Age; and we all know, that ill Habits, contracted by long Practice, are not to be rooted out by any Thing less than the divine Power, which seldom exerts it self for the Recovery of those, especially Persecutors, who have all their Days offer'd Violence to Reason, natural Religion, and the common Principles of Christianity, which they themselves profess.

Country-m. You say very well, Master. But as on the *French* King's Part, there are visible Reasons why Heaven should deny him Peace, I wish there may be none on the Side of any of the Confederates, that may provoke Heaven to deny them such a Blessing. One *Achan* in a Camp may bring Ruin upon an Army, tho' they fight in a good Cause; but I am afraid there's many among the Allies, to say nothing of the *Hungarian* War, which had its Rise from Persecution, of the Breach of the Treaty of *Westphalia*, as to what relates to Protestants in many Places of the Empire. What can we think of the deplorable Condition of those poor Protestants that are so lately come hither from the *Palatinate*, to avoid being continually plagu'd by Priests and Jesuits, who, tho' the Elector has the Character of a moderate Prince, yet, like the *Pharisees* of old, they will not cease to compass Sea and Land, in order to make Proselytes; and that too, by as indirect and barbarous Methods, as ever those painted Sepulchres did? Then, Master, if we consider, that we hear of nothing expressly stipulated for our oppress'd Protestant Brethren in *Germany*, *Hungary*, or *France*, does not that look like a faulty Indifference, that may bring the same Judgments upon the Confederates, that the Prophet *Haggai* tells us befel the *Israelites*, for taking Care of their private Interests, and dwelling in ceil'd Houses, while the House of God lay waste? They were very indifferent in that Matter, and said, *The Time was not yet come, that the Lord's House should be built.* Therefore, adds the Prophet, 'Ye look'd 'for much, and lo! it came to little ---. Why, 'saith the Lord of Hosts, because of mine House 'that is waste, and ye run every Man unto his own 'House, therefore the Heaven over you is stay'd 'from Dew, and the Earth is stay'd from her Fruit; 'and I call'd for a Drought upon the Land, and 'upon the Mountains, and upon the Corn, and 'upon the new Wine, and upon the Oil, and up-'on that which the Ground bringeth forth, and 'upon Men, and upon Cattle, and upon all the 'Labour of the Hands. Now, Master, the Punishment is the same, if inflicted by too much Rain, Frost, and Snow, as if it were brought by too much Drought; and since those Judgments are so visible upon *France*, and that the Confederate Nations are no tquite exempted from them, since we are all sensible of the threatning Season, the Dearth of Provisions, and the Decay of Trade, or the Labour of our Hands, have we not Reason to look at Home, and see if there be none of those Crimes among us, that bring such Judgments upon our Neighbours? Is it not evident, that Immorality abounds, that Religion suffers here by a scandalous Neglect and Contempt of it in some, and by prostituting the most solemn Ordinances of the Gospel, to make them politick Engines of Division, by others?

Obs. Hold, *Roger*, let not your Zeal out-run your Judg-

Judgment, and bankrupt your Prudence. Our Popiſh Confederates and we are embark'd in one Bottom, which the grand Pyrates of *Rome* and *France* uſe their utmoſt Endeavours to take or ſink. 'Tis the Unhappineſs of the *Roman* Catholick Princes, our Allies, that they are as much peſter'd with a high-flying Clergy, as we. The Sons of *Zerviah* are too hard for them and us both; but there may be a Time to reckon with them, when once we have got rid of the common Enemy. We have no Reaſon to doubt the Emperor's Clemency to his Proteſtant Subjects, or his favouring them, in Gratitude to his Proteſtant Allies; but 'tis not always in the Power of Princes to do what Good they would. King *William* could never get the Sacramental Teſt taken off, during his Reign; nor could he get ſuch Terms for the *German* Proteſtants at the Treaty of *Reſwick*, as every one muſt believe he would willingly have had. Her preſent Majeſty has again and again recommended Union among her Proteſtant Subjects, yet all her known Zeal for the Church of *England*, and her unparallell'd Bounty to the Clergy, has not been able to bring many of 'em to a Temper, but they charge her continually from the Preſs and the Pulpit, with eſtabliſhing Schiſm; and you know our old Friend, the *Rehearſer*, put it oftner than once in Print, that the Church of *Scotland*, which her Majeſty has made unalterable as far as Law can make it, is a Rebellion like that of *Korah*. Then pray let's conſider the Caſe of ſome of our *Roman* Catholick Allies by our own, and not be too haſty with them; but for the *French* King, I am as forward as you can be, that he ſhould be oblig'd to reſtore the Edict of *Nantz*, and give the Proteſtants their old cautionary Towns; and ſince he has now plaid us ſuch a Trick, I hope what I have formerly urg'd, will be conſider'd, that if he come to treat again, the Allies ſhould demand a Guarrantee within himſelf, *viz.* That the Eſtates of his Kingdom may be aſſembl'd to ratify the Treaty, and a Law made to exempt his Subjects from contributing, either by their Perſons or Purſes, to aſſiſt him in the Breach of any Part of it.

Country-m. We muſt adjourn this Subject to another Time, Maſter. Here's a Letter to you from an honeſt Gentleman, with an Account, that *Dyer* has abus'd you, in his *News-Letter* to a *Weſt*-Country-Juſtice, for what you ſaid about repealing the Sacramental Teſt in *Ireland*, which he ſaid would have been a Crime in King *James*'s Days; and after he has given the Party ſome Aſſurance, that the Parliament of *Ireland* will not do it, he falls upon you with ſcurrilous Reflexions.

Obſ. I ſhould have the worſe Opinion of my ſelf, *Roger*, were I in the good Graces of ſuch a Perſon as *Dyer*, whom neither Proſecutions nor Drubbing have been able to reform from his Practice of Lying and Slandering, both the Government and private Perſons; but the worſt on't for him, is, that not one Word of what he has ſaid concerning me, is true. In the mean Time, we may ſee the Spirit of the Party, and the Senſe of their libelling Advocate. All the World knows, there was no Sacramental Teſt in *Ireland* in King *James*'s Days; and 'tis well there was not, for had the Diſſenters in *Ireland* been diſabl'd then, as they are now, from being Magiſtrates or military Officers, every Body, except ſuch as *Dyer*, with his Popiſh and *Jacobite* Correſpondents, is ſatisfy'd, the Church of *Ireland* muſt have been undone, and the Church of *England* in great Danger. But I deſpiſe his impotent Malice, *Roger*, and think him below any farther Reſentment.

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